

20 August 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: BGN Name Policies with respect to NIS 39A (Communist China)

116

1. Question was raised last week by Chief, D/F, regarding administrative boundaries and names for Chapter I on NIS 39A (Communist China). I followed through this morning with the Chief, Cartography Division, and determined that his views favored complete change of name policy to reflect the defacto situation in that area. In discussing this question later [redacted] I found that he was generally in favor of a policy name change by the Foreign Names Committee, but it was his opinion that administrative divisions and their corresponding names could be effected within the present name policy. He said the broader question of general name changes to reflect the present situation in 39A might lead to frequent changes of place names which might be undesirable.

2. I suggested, therefore, that [redacted] prepare a staff study on this question, sending a copy to Chief, Cartography Division (CIA member on the Foreign Names Committee). Following receipt of this staff study I would request [redacted] to meet with me to resolve this question and to determine what action, if any, should be taken on the Foreign Names Committee.

3. In a general examination of this question from State's point of view, Dan Clinton indicated that the Research Divisions were all for reflecting defacto situations, but that State's policy normally would preclude reflecting name changes of the government not recognized by the U.S. This latter problem might be overcome by carrying all maps and textual materials in a classified category. This obviously would preclude the printing of a public gazetteer should we revise the present one on 39A to reflect Communist Chinese names.

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